

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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New Draft Amendments to GMO Labeling of Food Products

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Biotechnology and Other New Production
Technologies

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Report Highlights:

The Russian Federal Service for Consumer Protection and Public Health (Rospotrebnadzor) drafted a new amendment to the Custom Union (CU) Technical Regulation (TR) "On Labeling Food Products" (TR CU 022/2011). The amendment requires the labeling of food products containing genetically engineered ingredients (referred to as "GMO" in the Russian documents) with a specific "GMO" label.

General Information:

The Russian Federal Service for Consumer Protection and Public Health (Rospotrebnadzor) has drafted a new amendment to the Custom Union (CU) Technical Regulation (TR) “On Labeling Food Products” (TR CU 022/2011). The amendment would require the inclusion of a specific “GMO” label on food products containing genetically engineered ingredients. This is the second effort by Rospotrebnadzor to require GMO labeling on food products¹. The new draft amendment would require that the GMO label on a food product be prepared according to the model of the Unified Conformity Mark for Products on the CU Market². The draft does not change requirements used in determining the existence of genetically engineered ingredients in food products³.

The draft was posted on the government site: <http://regulation.gov.ru/project/15875.html>. Since the draft concerns the Customs Union technical regulation, if the discussions result in approval of the document, the further steps are submission of the document for consideration of experts of the Customs Union. If experts from all three countries, members of the Customs Union (Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation), agree on the amendments, the amendments will be submitted for consideration of the Collegium and then the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission. Consent of all three countries is necessary for adoption of these amendments to the CU TR “On Labeling Food Products.”

The unofficial translation of the draft amendments to the TR CU “On Labeling Food Products” is given below.

¹ In March 2014 Rospotrebnadzor proposed to require that information on “GMOs” cover not less than 20 percent of the food composition and ingredients label area, and proposed to make it mandatory that the label state the percentage of each GMO ingredient in the product. FAS/Moscow reported on these proposed amendments in GAIN report [Draft Amendments to GMO Information in CU TR on Food Labeling 3-14-2014.pdf](#). However, these amendments were assessed by experts as non-science based and not enforceable, and have not been adopted.

² The Unified Conformity Mark on products that circulate on the CU market was adopted by the Decision of the Commission of the Customs Union No. 711 of July 15, 2011 with amendments made by the Commission Decision No. 800 of September 23, 2011. The Mark is described as “stylized letters... graphically performed with the use of right angles with the same height and width, constituting the exact ratio of the square on a light or on a contrasting background”. The Russian description of the Conformity Mark is here: <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/deptexreg/tr/Documents/EAC.pdf>. Marking of products with this Conformity Mark is required by the applicable technical regulations of the Customs Union.

³ For more information on the requirements to determining the content of genetically engineered ingredients in food products see sub-sections “Decisions of the Customs Union” and “Labeling” in the FAS/Moscow GAIN report [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual 2014 7-11-2014.pdf](#). CU TR on Labeling Food products requires that consumers are informed of presence of each genetically engineered ingredient in food products if it exceeds 0.9 percent of its mass, but this TR does not specify the format of this information.

Unofficial translation begins

Draft
Council of Eurasian Economic Commission
Decision
No__ of ____

On Amendments

To the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Labeling of Food Products” (TR CU 022/2011)

In accordance with Article 3 of the Agreement on the Eurasian Economic Commission of November 18, 2011, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission decided:

1. To amend the technical regulation of the Customs Union “On Labeling Food Products” (TR CU 022/2011), approved by the Decision of the Commission of the Customs Union No. 881 of December 12, 2011, as in Attachment.
2. To determine:
 - 2.1. The Amendments to the Technical regulation of the Customs Union “On Labeling Food Products” (hereinafter – Technical Regulation) come to force upon the expiration of 180 calendar days from the day of official publication;
 - 2.2. Within 180 days from the date when Amendments to the Technical Regulation “On Labeling Food Products” come to force, production and issuance to circulation of food products is allowed in accordance with the labeling requirements set before the entry into force of these amendments;
 - 2.3. The circulation of products issued into circulation in accordance with sub-paragraph 2.2 of this Decision is allowed during the shelf life of the product set in accordance with the legislature of the state – member of the Customs Union.

Members of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission:

From Republic of Belarus	From Republic of Kazakhstan	From the Russian Federation
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Attachment
to the Decision of the Council
of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. __ of ____

Amendments
to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Labeling Food Products”
(TR CU 022/2011)

To add paragraph 4.11 of Article 4 with sub-paragraph 4 as following:

“4. Next to the Unified Conformity Mark on products that circulate on the markets of the states, members of the Customs Union, to place the similar in size and in shape Mark of product obtained with the use of GMOs in the form of inscription “GMO”. ”

End unofficial translation